

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and further examination are requested.

Claims 3-6 and 10-15 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

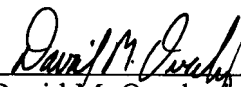
Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maalej (US 6,545,532).

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Further, new claims 16 and 17, which are similar to claims 2 and 9 and depend from allowable claims 14 and 15, respectively, have been added. As a result, all the pending claims are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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